

## Office of the City Attorney

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Office is to provide excellent and ethical legal advice, zealous legal representation, and other quality legal services for the City Council, City officers, and City employees in order that they may lawfully attain the City Council's goals and other department program outcomes without undue risk to the City.

### Major 2001/02 Priorities

- Improve the quality of Riverside's neighborhoods by pursuit of neighborhood nuisances and through effective municipal code prosecutions.
- Continue to provide legal services that will reduce the City's exposure to claims for damages and aggressively defend the City when engaged in matters of litigation.
- Continue to coordinate, supervise and manage outside litigation counsel with respect to tort litigation in order to ensure the course of action chosen by outside counsel best represents the interests of the City, its department heads and employees.
- Continue to act as general counsel for the City of Riverside Redevelopment Agency by advising and representing the Agency Board and staff on legal issues affecting the Agency.
- Continued participation of one attorney in the Advanced Management Program of the A. Gary Anderson Graduate School of Management at the University of California Riverside.
- Maintain continuing legal education requirements for attorneys and paralegals.
- Facilitate prompt review and advice for development related documents and legal issues.

### **Programs and Program Goals**

#### **FY 2001/02**

**Community Livability Program:** To provide excellent, ethical and equitable legal enforcement of the Riverside Municipal Code for the citizens of Riverside and the community in order to enable attainment of Public Works Code Compliance and City Manager's Neighborhoods program outcomes.

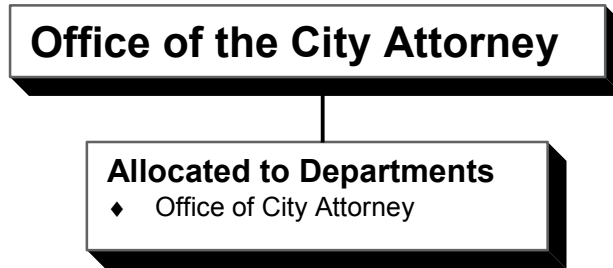
**Litigation Services Program:** To provide excellent, ethical and zealous legal representation of the City, its officers and employees to minimize the City's liabilities for its activities.

**Public Safety Services Program:** To provide excellent and ethical legal advice, training and representation for the officers and employees of the Police and Fire Departments and the Community Police Review Commission in order that they may lawfully attain their program outcomes without undue risk to the City and the public.

**Administrative Program:** To provide policy direction, administrative support and fiscal management to enable the Department to achieve program outcomes while complying with federal, state, local and other requirements.

**General Municipal Services Program:** To provide excellent and ethical legal advice and zealous representation for the City Council, officers, employees, and various departments enabling them to lawfully attain City Council goals and other departments program outcomes without undue risk to the City and the public.

## Office of the City Attorney



### Description of the Service

The Office of the City Attorney represents and advises the City Council and all City officers in matters of law pertaining to their offices; represents and appears for the City in actions or proceedings in which the City is concerned or is a party; and represents and appears for any City officer or employee, or former City officer or employee, in actions and proceedings in which such officer or employee is concerned or is a party for acts arising out of his employment or by reason of his official capacity.

The Office of the City Attorney approves the form of all contracts made by and all bonds and certificates of insurance given to the City, and prepares any and all proposed ordinances or resolutions for the City and amendments thereto. The office provides legal services to the Redevelopment Agency and prepares such legal documents as may be required for special improvement and maintenance districts.

### Recent Accomplishments

- Represented the City in its negotiations with the California Attorney General leading to the settlement and stipulated judgment.
- Recovered nearly \$100,000 on behalf of the City representing full reimbursement for the City's emergency response to the Tanker Fire on August 8, 2000.
- Successfully defended the City's poolroom ordinance before the State Court of Appeal.
- Successfully obtained court orders destroying 42 deadly weapons that were seized from the possession of mentally disturbed persons and domestic abuse offenders.
- Engaged in litigation against contaminators of the City's water supply.